



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Human Dimension Activities

As delivered by Mr. Ron McNamara,
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to the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, September 26, 2005

Mr. Moderator, the United States believes that OSCE field presences also have an important role to play in assisting participating States in implementing their commitments. They can assist in a longer-term way that a project cannot, through deeper and evolving dialogue with governments. They also can reach out to the public and to civil society in a way that projects cannot.

The field presences can also present a useful platform for implementing additional, extra-budgetary programs as necessary. By soliciting voluntary, extra-budgetary contributions from participating States, the OSCE is able to react quickly and flexibly to changing or unexpected conditions and circumstances. A good, recent example of this can be seen in the \$600,000 extra-budgetary contribution the U.S. made to the OSCE Center in Bishkek in the aftermath of the March violence and lawlessness which shook Kyrgyzstan. The Center is using the majority of these funds to enhance the ability of the Kyrgyz police to discern the difference between legitimate protest and public disorder, to improve their ability to keep public protests from escalating into violence, and to manage incidents of public disorder peacefully when they do occur. Part of these funds are also being used to pay for the deployment of three international police experts to help advise the Kyrgyz Minister of Interior and the top police commanders in Bishkek and Osh on police matters.

Field missions need full fledged financial, logistical, political and moral support to be effective.

We note that the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons has once again raised the idea of thematic missions, that is, missions based on a single issue rather in a single country. The United States proposed such a mission to address combating trafficking in human beings, but as the concept of creating a thematic mission was not accepted by all of the participating States, that issue is now dealt with by a Special Representative. We continue to believe that it would be useful to explore the possibility of creating a thematic mission.

The United States believes the concrete assistance programs and projects offered by the OSCE are extremely valuable in helping participating States to implement their

commitments. While the final responsibility for implementing commitments lies with States themselves, there are times when assistance is as necessary as political will.

We believe there are several priority areas where the OSCE has particular expertise to offer:

- Activities to strengthen the rule of law and an independent judiciary are crucial. For virtually all OSCE commitments to be implemented, a country must have an independent judicial system that can offer redress in cases such as electoral fraud, discrimination, human rights abuses, combating trafficking in human beings, and investment and business ventures.
- Efforts to help reform and modernize law enforcement capacities are also crucial to upholding the rule of law and protecting human rights and thus deserve continued support.
- Combating trafficking in human beings is another area where the OSCE should concentrate its efforts. The OSCE has much to offer, particularly in the area of victim protection and assistance. We would like to see the OSCE develop and conduct training for law enforcement and other authorities in proper victim identification procedures. Victims cannot be assisted until they are correctly identified.
- In a single year, ODIHR successfully built an excellent new Program on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. This Program is essential in helping the OSCE monitor and combat incidents of racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance. The 2005 launch of projects in the fields of legislation, law enforcement, education, and monitoring have begun spreading best practices for preventing and responding to intolerance and discrimination in many areas. We encourage participating States to consider making extra-budgetary contributions to these projects, to signal their support for ODIHR's work, and to fully utilize the assistance that ODIHR has to offer.
- The Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representatives on tolerance are another effective OSCE project. The Representatives are useful for raising awareness of the many distinct forms of intolerance and discrimination, for spreading best practices, and for assisting relevant government agencies, NGOs, and public leaders as they cooperate with one another and with ODIHR in their efforts to combat discrimination and to promote tolerance.

Finally, we would like to commend ODIHR on developing a strong and professional election assistance program, ranging from legislative analysis and assistance to election observation. ODIHR's election-related activities should be fully supported.